Reddie & Grose

Chartered Patent Agents
European Patent Attorneys
Trade Mark Agents

16 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8PL

Telephone 071-242 0901
Fax 071-242 3290
Fax 071-242 0286
Telex 25445
DX 280

John H. Bass B.Sc.
P. Antony Smith M.A.
F.A.B. Valentine M.A.
Richard C. Abnett M.A.
Paul A. Brereton M.A.
Keith E. Geering B.A.
Nicholas S. Marlow B.Sc.
Linda J. Harland B.Sc.
J.M. Davies D.Phil.

D.S. Jackson B.Sc.
J.J. Day B.Sc.
P.A.D. Lloyd B.Sc.

Consultant
David A. Pears M.A.

Philip Morris Management Corp.,
Law Department, Patent Section,
P.O. Box 26583,
Richmond,
Virginia 23261-6583,
United States of America

JHB/JB/23844
5th October 1990

Attention: Beverly A. Monroe

RECEIVED
PHILIP MORRIS MANAGEMENT CORP.
LAW DEPT.-PATENT SECTION

OCT 17 1990

Dear Beverly,

Japanese Patent Application No. 70062/81
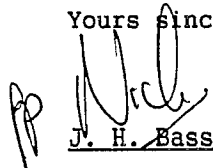Your Ref: PM 1088/89
Our File: 23844

NOTED

Following receipt of Jeff Ingerman's letter of 18th June 1990 I instructed our Japanese Associates on the response to be filed.

They have now sent copies of the amendment and argument and one is duly enclosed (in Japanese).

We have not been sent an English translation of the amendment, but our Associates advise that by the amendment claim 2 has been amended to be an independent claim. In my instructions I argued in favour of the retention of claim 2 on the ground that, although referring to a feature which was not already mentioned in claim 1, it did nevertheless relate to an improvement of the smoking article of claim 1 and was of little interest in any other context.

I did, however, ask our Associates to amend claim 2 if they felt this was desirable, and it appears that they regard an independent status for claim 2 as being more likely to achieve acceptance. Japanese practice does not, of course, frown upon a plurality of independent claims in the same way as the stricter European and Latin American practices.

Yours sincerely,

J. H. Bass

c.c. Jeff Ingerman (Fish & Neave)

R&G
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